



# GALLERY MINT REPORT

Dedicated to the Preservation and Advancement of the Numismatic Arts

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## Gallery Mint unveils the 1995 Annual Medal

Philippe Bertholet, who has been collecting the Gallery Mint Annual medal since 1992, has good news to share. The dies for the 1995 medal are now complete and striking will begin shortly by the time this formulation hits the mail.

For those of you who are just passing thru more than 2,500 pieces of the Gallery Mint, we invite you to take a peek at what has become a favorite annual tradition.

With these four (the commemorative sets, the covering and the Hobo art) come collected nationwide, it's no wonder we always look forward to the subject for the next Gallery Mint Museum annualmedal.

1995 was a "Hobo Market" Year of the Hoagie Dog and has travelled to the tiny town of Bettis, Iowa to attend their 6th Annual Hobo Market Convention where documents gathered to celebrate the epoch of American History. GMM took a collection of coins, 1000 offered demonstrations of the Hobo Mosaics, and donated a piece carved just for the occasion. The piece was inscribed by artist Ed in a "Prayer of the Hobo" to Edna Lamm in Ames, Iowa and log recorded in the GMM convention where they also issued one-piece-parcher ART4 and the Original Hobo Market Society #1995/95. These pieces sold for a total of \$610.00 with proceeds to the Tilney Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In keeping with our tradition, the 1995 Gallery Mint Hobo will be limited edition of 1000 numbered pieces, each in \$19.95 face value, 1.00 very ea.

The obverse depicts a hobo walking his dog (Hoagie Dog) market. He holds 10¢ coin showing wheat design 1937 to the background in front of a sign and under the words "I am a Hobo" and signed "MCADAM" (quality).

100 copies of the two most prominent and well known Hobo artists, the reverse of the medal features a combination of a typical hobo-themed - or somewhat the angle of a 1937 wheat and signed "REED". A theory was introduced such a working reduced gold process to be an appropriate search for this piece. The inscription reads, "The Hobo Award, an

### Americana Folk Art Tradition"

For those of who have already purchased/owned medals you will receive the option of purchasing your name and number (#). Please return your order by January 31. The number will be added to new before after that date. There are less than 200 left of the 1993 and 1994 medals which add up to 365 each. (See order form for details.) Pending for the Gallery Mint Museum project started directly from the sale proceeds of \$12,000 worth.



A Hobo Market of  
Year - The 1995  
Gallery Mint  
Museum Medal cele-  
brates the art form  
of the hoboes of the  
Great Depression.  
Minted in .999 fine  
silver, 1.02 Troy  
ounces, the 2020 num-  
bered edition medal  
sells for \$25.



## A History of Hobo Nickels

With the advent of the Great Depression, more and more folks were taking Hobo coins as a source of work. It became a way of life for many. As much as that underground camp of Hobos forced to earn his wages on their "towerned case" called jangles, an even



# scratching the surface

By  
Tom

Carving technical jargon from the engraver's bench

## Hole nickel -- what else?

I had the good fortune to attend the annual International of the American Machinists' Convention, a few years back, and had the time of my life. Amongst others, I was a little apprehensive at first, wondering how I would be able to fit in with a bunch of tool collectors, none of whom I knew. I was taking a chance on the "art of engraving" taught by Raymond Stevens and I hoped I would be okay if there were other artists in my class with whom to share art.

We had a few days and I learned much, including how to work faster & easier for the more modern approach to the engraving. But I also found myself meeting all kinds of people, making new friends and being exposed to all kinds of interesting new stuff. I found out that it had a lot in common with all those cool collectors I had come to see.

Amongst the thousands who stop at night shop "hole bull-nose" and self-admitted "different aspects of machinists". One evening, I attended Bill Price's talk on Hole Nickel. It was really superb and I began engraving again to ensure I returned from Colorado. I haven't really stopped since.

I find a certain freedom in the engraving that is so satisfying. If I get another lie or isn't cutting, I just correct it. I have to worry about consequences in just about whatever or not I can market several hundred of them. It's just simple and spontaneous.

Most of my engraving work is very much like the old tools meant showing off traditional themes. As I carved more, I tried to refine these themes with each successive piece and one day I looked at my engraving block and all the pieces I had created and I realized I was starting to realize how to engrave and suddenly with every piece I started to look at the carving



Elephant on the Ball — Can you still see the buffalo on the nickel?

Gallery 516el



on a predictable, repetitive pattern than you a hole nickel.

What started out to be a fun way of making some extra money has given me the skills and confidence necessary to create the master hole-nickel replicators work we are presently involved in.

I love the way that all these together:

I don't really have one and only way of carving hole-nickel I use whatever tools are available to me. It is a power tool only to remove the original design when necessary and sometimes for polishing the block to a professional finish. Basically it uses the power generated by me for the work. So I am always playing with different finishing methods—dustless, dust and even adding compound with a tooth brush.

I apply a plain leather piece by applying heat until a tone (heat) then rubbing the high glaze with no abrasive. The proof (the engraving) my self-made, and then the block polished to give a mirror.

I usually did a short series of tools engraved yet to see how difficult it would be and this generally helped in how efficient the tool or the engraving needed. Maybrite and/or polyester are my glazes. Tool I use is ball. I recommend good causes of trying this with a family. One they could work in many parks.

I once made a few tools from old screwdrivers with which I then carved a few pieces. A graver is a single tool. An engraver can be regarded as easily as a hand-decoration device. (No doubt some of the hole-nickels used available tools similar to this to engrave such.)

See — Surface, Page 8

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# Gallery Mint Museum strikes gold!

## Introducing the 1795 Gold Half Eagle reproduction

In 1795, the Half Eagle was the first regular issue U.S. gold coin. The coins weighed 9.75 grams, and were produced from an alloy of 91.67 fine gold (10/12ths pure or .833), the remainder in copper. This is the same alloy used in all early U.S. gold coins. Later, by the Act of January 18, 1837 the alloy of gold coins was changed to 90% fine.

Designed by Robert Sully, the 1795 Half Eagle depicts a Liberty wearing a Phrygian cap and facing right. The reverse is the usual eagle design.

Reproduced in the same weight and alloy as the original coin, Gallery Mint is now offering a limited edition of 200 proof coins for \$125. The success of variety will be available for some time at \$125. During very difficult, drastic gold price changes.



\$14 insured shipping and handling per coin.

The models feature a raised edge, raised letters on a head stamped above press. To comply with the Hobby Protection Act, each coin must be counter stamped "COPY". When ordering, state on which side you prefer the stamp. Unless otherwise specified, "COPY" will appear on the reverse below the branch on which the eagle is perched.



Half Eagle Reproductions—Shown here in proof issue limited edition of 200.

## Secondary market for GMM reproductions

We've issued hundreds of times since September '80 (1980), when production of the 1795 Chain Coin reproduction started. "Where can I find a chain coin rep?"

Although we are delighted to hear that demand has exceeded the supply of GMM models and reproductions, we hasten to get too involved in the secondary market. We won't brokers, we'll buyers, and we're busy marketing and placing the various pieces of the Gallery Mint Museum.

We do want to help where we can, however, and think we have come up with a way to match Gallery Mint Museum Patrons sellers and buyers without a whole lot of hassle. Here's what we propose.

### \*Sellers

If you have GMM models you are willing to sell and are willing to have your name, address and phone number published in a list in promotional brochures, please contact us by mail or phone. We need

to know it has you have a formula. Please let us know what to remove your name from the list.

Recent requests from prospective buyers include 1991 and 1992 Royal Mint (pre-GMM) Assay Medals, 1795 Chain Coin reproduction in both proof and uncirculated issue, and the 1795 Wreath Coin reproduction in proof issue. We expect to add unnumbered Wreath Coins to this list by January 31. —JAMES

If you are looking for one of the above, send us your request along with a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE). We will send a current copy of the Sales list to you.

### \*Gallery Mint Museum

This will be the action of our model results and our responsibility. All negotiations, sales, payment, etc. will be between the buyer and seller. Please let us know how it works!

## • Hobo Nickels

Continued from Page 1

values, even and an evolution of our money.

Hobos acted as much older and they did whatever had to do to survive. Most of them were very honest and because they didn't want to be called liars they rarely took something for nothing—offering labor or some kind of trade for a meal and somewhere to sleep. If all else failed, they would break a hand-chiseled sugar box, or perhaps a heavy kitchen chair to fashioned out of a station keeper's name some of the pictures of the time.

In 1903, a new design was adopted by the United States Mint—*the Lincoln Head nickel* and is undeniably one of the most

valuable of the classic American designs. The large



Abraham Lincoln

by Ron Lurkin

The obverse

design is

an early work (1903).

"Teddy" (right)

represents

an early work (1903).

"The Morgan Dollar" (bottom)

is a revised nickel

as a revised nickel.

Gallison In  
Rough Water =  
So goes the  
"Hobo" currency  
shift by Ron  
Lurkin and often  
seen for many years  
PROOF an interna-  
tional collection.  
This year the  
exhibit will be held  
in December.

Look at the new pro-  
tectionist "law" for an  
example. Does it fit in the  
logic of the?

Hobo nickels are probably the purest form of art in our time because the coins. Using simple pocket tools' primitive or rudimentary hand engraving tools the artist transformed the Indian into a bearded man with a hat the Indian into a shaggy. Pictures of presidents, Indians, soldiers, shepherds and farm animals engraved onto the same things yet they stand off enough so the fact that they are truly artistically done.

Most of the artists who carved these pieces in the past seemed to concentrate on the faces on the coins. A few of the more prolific carvers have become quite well known among the coin collecting public all kinds of nickels.

James "Winged" who is responsible for the pieces by removing the L and N in LIBERTY, has used these Indian motifs and the Wright George Washington Fliegler has in some

(below) known by his Indian names.

He "Washington" is widely considered to have been the first of the Indian engravers. His work has been around the world of the country the size of a small state again has come into the limelight. His rock art from 1915 until his disappearance in Lake Superior in 1944.

But the art and legacy of the Hobo Indians, remained in underground for all time. A unique form of American folk art there is also a bright pretty about them that is reminiscent of the natural forms that we cannot understand.

Marked fully cataloged types and extensive collections are little known as the creation of Hobo nickel. Millions employed as such. These are not just nice little mementos though. A single leading coin or currency carved over the past hundred years can itself be a token of appreciation for a busy period.

Created with the skill of a craftsman and the creative freedom of a going, the Hobo nickel helped to pay like way on the never-ending journey home.

© 1992

For \$5 each, I feel I get a real bargain. Each one is clearly marked, well finished and set with precision.

Even though many of the Hobo carvers are using power grinders and polishers to shave much, they are still leaving behind a tradition of American Folk art which should be encouraged and supported. That's not to say that we should all buy up everything available. But with proper handling the future of this art could yield some great works.

In this modern world of computers, good ideas just keep getting stale. Special rooms, hobby studios, special collections, technology exhibits, lectures and photo exhibits; the role of the local experts of specialty demonstrating their carrying on one of the last free zones for the art of Hobo Art.

John

© 1992



- **Choice Proof Reproduction** -- The first of the *Gallery Mint Museum's* large coin reproductions. The proof coin was minted on June 19, 1993. A total of nine were issued. Mintage of the undecorated issues was 4,000. Production was completed October 10, 1993.
- **Whitney Proof Reproduction** -- The second of the *Gallery Mint Museum's* large coin reproductions. Production of the proof issues began on October 17, 1993. Distribution started on October 20, 1993. The final mintage of 900 was completed on November 16, 1993. A few others also were issued at \$125. The undecorated issues began production on October 20, 1993. As of October 20, 1993, 2,900 undecorated issues have been produced.
- **Brilliant Proof Whitely Proof**  
The proof mintage -- The four (4) reproductions were issued on November 3, 1993. The dies were coined the same day.
- **Brilliant Proof Barber Dime**  
The proof mintage -- Coined mintage is 1,000 units of \$125.
- **1993 Gallery Mint Medal** -- Coined mintage is 300 out of 300.
- **1993 Gallery Mint Medal** -- Coined mintage is 100 out of 300.
- **Proceeds** -- From the sales of the above coin reproductions paid for remodeling of the *Gallery Mint Museum Shop* and the wall for the modern housing exhibit. The sales of the second year will help produce funds for programs on the 14 acre site of the new

## U.S. Mint documentary delayed

News from Hollywood, Calif. and *Video Cross Productions* says the documentary on the U.S. Mint has been delayed because of the proposed government shutdown. The film is still expected to be completed early next year and has been pitched to the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and PBS.

According to the article by Kim Stites Kupper in *Coinage Magazine* (February 1994), "The U.S. Mint: An American History" will feature archival film and photo interviews with historians, government officials, and collectors of the

mint officials, and collectors, as well as footage of the striking of medals that has probably never before been captured on film. And, of course, The *Gallery Mint Museum* played its role in portraying the workings of the minty U.S. Mint.

Be sure to catch the fascinating story in the February issue of *Coinage Magazine*.

GMM plans to use the footage shot here and our own video for Global patrons. We'll keep you posted as to its development and availability.

—KSK



## GMM to create 1996 ANA exhibitor & judges medals

*Gallery Mint Museum* offered to create the Exhibitor and Judges Medals for the 1996 Denver ANA.

Cooperation. The large, high relief medal will be as small as other bronze

copper, or brass. The design shown above is yet off the GMM engraver's drawing board.

The medal will be given to exhibitors and judges at the convention

## *Batch of protective slips... flop*

A recent batch of the PVC-free protective slips used between and atop GEMM models was found to be defective, cracking at the corners of the model supports, causing and spelling the controls, say reports from our partners.

The manufacturers have responded and generously made good. If you can get the slips you've received from GEMM please let us know as soon as possible. We want also to apologize and give

## *Gallery Mint Museum t-Shirts now on sale*

Dark brown cotton t-shirts with yellow gold Gallery Mint Museum seal (Size Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large) are \$15.95 each and shape 100% cotton sweatshirt \$19 each, plus \$3 shipping & handling.

Order regular items.

Also introduced is us, the only flap used for GEMM products covered PVC. You can tell the difference by the single seam line (PVC) as opposed to a zipper-like seam line. To request send a SASE and number of flaps needed.

■ ■ ■



**The Gallery Mint Captain Collection—** Is our "newcomer" also to our Gallery Mint Photos, the captain with his picture selected the recently rechartered Mint Shop in the preview of the 1790 Liberty Coin Reproduction. It was initially the products from the 1790 (Oak Leaf) Reproduction that made the reproducing possible. The products from the Virginia (Cord) reproduction will bring, per the first hand payment of the 300-share issue of the GEMM Magazine. Today the Gallery Mint collection looks much like a mint shop would have 200 years ago. Tales of the Gallery Mint Museum by appointment are mentioned and encouraged!

Gallery Mint

## *Liberty Cap and Half Cent coming up soon*

Yes, we hear you, the many of you who have asked that we reproduce the 1793 Liberty Cap. And yes, we will. Along with the Half cent of 1793. Back are on the agenda to complete the Type Set of 1793 in the very near future.

Also planned for 1793 is the 1790 Type Set. We plan to start with the quarter dollar.

As always, we will let you know by Newsletter or Collective Update when these items become available.

We appreciate your interest, your enthusiasm, and your support of the Gallery Mint Museum.

DOES ANYTHING  
SOUND LIKE  
UNARMED  
TROOPS?



## Concept \$1 fun to ponder, yours to collect

This is what engineers do with their spare time for fun. They construct new coins and pencils related

would be like to have the

U.S. Mint accept. It  
may be as close to  
developing a U.S.

coin design that U.S.Mint engineer Ron Laddie will  
ever get involved working for the government.

The design, which was created at home, was never  
officially presented to the powers that be, although  
there had been plans to do so. (Ronald thought there  
is no day "We shall present it" — quite informally — to a  
U.S. Mint engineer. He said it was neat.)

If you want one for your U.S.Mint collection,  
here's how to get one:

If you purchased a 1986 Planning  
Silver Dollar (specifications on your line  
for a \$50.00). Otherwise, they are \$1  
each postage paid. These are offered  
to Gallery Mint stores or Phoenix only,  
and will not be advertised to the general  
public.

Concept Dollar  
Gallery Mint Museum  
P.O. Box 706  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632



Shown larger than actual size of \$1 coins.